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Testimony by Representative Pam Sawyer
Before the Judiciary Committee
On rHouse Bill 6435
February 28, 2011
10:00 Room 2E

Good morning Chairmen Coleman and Fox, Ranking Members Kissel and Hetherington, and members of the Judiciary Committee. For the record, I am Representative Pam Sawyer, representing the 55th District. I am here today to speak *in favor* to **HB 6435** AA Requiring Notice Of The Right To Appeal A Written Order, Denial, Or Decree Of a Court Of Probate.

The issue is regarding letting people know their rights. The probate court is the only court that many people will ever use. And it is one that some people will use without a lawyer, thinking a disposition of a will is cut and dry.

So it is important that the court clearly make the rights individuals have apparent. I was asked to bring this bill forward to highlight the issue.

When someone receives a court written order, denial or decree, they should are made aware of what their rights are, giving them the immediate information as to what the next step might be in the case of a disagreement. What is the timeline? Where does one find out what their rights are?

Sometimes with the very short window of 30 days for some types of decisions and only 45 for others, the average person without a lawyer may easily miss the opportunity to appeal.

Please require that the probate will give each person at the time of the decision from the court a clear statement of their right to appeal with the timeline. It could be in the form of a simple sheet of paper of have it preprinted on the back of the decision.